

BLAIRSTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Blairstown, New Jersey 07825

www.blairstownelem.net

February 19, 2015 Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER The Blairstown Township Board of Education held this meeting in the School Library on Thursday, February 19, 2015.

Mr. Herrmann, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:02PM, and read the District's Mission Statement.

FLAG SALUTE Everyone present was requested to rise and repeat the Pledge of Allegiance.

SUNSHINE LAW Mr. Herrmann read the Notice of Meeting as follows:
Adequate notice of this meeting was given in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act by publishing in the Express Times and by posting a copy of the meeting schedule on the front door of the school and at the Blairstown Municipal Building.

ROLL CALL The following board members were present:
Mr. Cook, Mrs. Glory, Mrs. Hadden, Mr. Herrmann, Mr. Karolchyk, and Mrs. McLain
Tardy: Mrs. Mantegna (7:15PM) and Mrs. Wood-Rosso (7:45PM)
Absent: None

Also Present: Mr. Saalfield, Superintendent; Mrs. Petty, SBA/Board Secretary; Mr. Leal, Principal; Joseph Castellucci, Esquire; and approximately 20 members of the public.

AT THIS TIME MRS. PETTY NOTED THAT ALL INTERESTED PARTIES WERE INVITED TO EXPRESS INTEREST IN THE BOARD'S UNEXPIRED ONE-YEAR AVAILABLE TERM – No one expressed interest.

APPROVE REGULAR MINUTES – A motion was made by Mrs. Hadden, seconded by Mrs. McLain, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes as submitted for January 8, 2015.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Superintendent's Update – Mr. Saalfield spoke about the Techspo Conference, Parents as Partners meeting, math series review, State commission's review of standardized testing, merit goal update, collaboration with NWR regarding special education, new website development, 2014-15 School Calendar, and NWR's zoning change request.
2. Principal's Report – Mr. Leal reviewed his written report.

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STUDENT RECOGNITION – Mr. Leal announced the Peace Poster Contest Winners (Jaden Mena, 1st place, Morgan Merrick, 2nd place, and Elijah Amato, 3rd place) and presented them with certificates, although Elijah could not be present at the meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING & PETITION

Mrs. Mary Smith, Testing Coordinator, expressed appreciation for the new computers in the Library, which will greatly assist with scheduling for standardized testing.

Mr. Bogden praised Mrs. Menzel and Mrs. Reynolds for their organization of the ski club.

Several parents questioned the need for delayed openings for freezing temperatures.

Many parents asked questions about the upcoming PARCC testing. Mr. Leal will provide written information for parents on this topic.

At this time a short break was taken for refreshments.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE TO MRS. WOOD-ROSSO – Mrs. Petty administered the oath of office to Mrs. Wood-Rosso.

BOE ETHICS REVIEW BY ROBYNN MEEHAN, NJSBA REPRESENTATIVE – Mrs. Meehan gave a short Power Point presentation on BOE ethics.

APPROVE TRANSFERS & FINANCIAL REPORTS – A motion was made by Mrs. Glory, seconded by Mrs. Wood-Rosso, and carried unanimously by roll call vote to approve the list of December Financial Transfers in the amount of \$11,000.00 and the December Board Secretary's Reports, in agreement with the Treasurer's Reports, in the amount of \$1,437,434.61 in total Government Funds; and to certify that as of December 31, 2014, after review of the Secretary and Treasurer's monthly financial reports (appropriations section) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, to the best of our knowledge no major account or fund has been overexpended in violation with N.J.A.C.6A:23A-16.10(c)4 and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligation for the fiscal year.

APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS – A motion was made by Mrs. McLain, seconded by Mrs. Hadden, and carried unanimously by roll call vote to approve payment of the General Fund Bills List in the amount of \$1,262,491.41 and the Food Service Bill List in the amount of \$8,077.07.

MOTION ITEMS

A. PERSONNEL – A motion was made by Mrs. Wood-Rosso, seconded by Mrs. Hadden, and carried unanimously by roll call vote to approve the following six motions:

1. Hire Substitute - To accept the Superintendent's recommendation to add the name of Ryan Snyder to the substitute teacher list for the 2014-15 School Year.

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2. Hire C. Burnett – To accept the Superintendent’s recommendation to confirm the offer of employment to Christine Burnett as the new Business Office Clerk, retro-active to January 20, 2015, at the annual salary of \$15,600, pro-rated to \$7,150, for the 2014-15 School Year.
3. Movement Across Guide –To approve Mrs. Zaleski’s request to move across the guide to Master’s +15 credits, Step 10, effective February 1, 2015.
4. Appoint Primary Reading Academy Staff –To appoint the following Primary Reading Academy Staff at \$40 per hour, per BTA contract: T. Anderson, C. Capiello, A. Chirico, J. Crisman, C. Fleming, D. Kelley, and K. Wohlers, with C. Constantine and A. Voss to work as substitutes, for the 2014-15 School Year.
5. Appoint Jump Rope for Heart Staff –To appoint V. Reynolds to supervise the Jump Rope for Heart program at a stipend of \$240, per BTA contract, for the 2014-15 School Year.
6. Hire Part-Time Custodian – To accept the Superintendent’s recommendation to hire Jessica Goble as a part-time Custodian for 5.75 hours per day at the hourly rate of \$15.00, effective March 9th, for the 2014-15 School Year, pending emergent hiring from the NJ Criminal History Unit.

B. FINANCE

A motion was made by Mrs. McLain, seconded by Mr. Cook, and carried unanimously by roll call vote to approve the following four requests:

1. Accept Donations – To accept a donation from Ronetco Shop Rite in the amount of \$250 for the music department, in appreciation of the Christmas caroling by our students in December, and a donation from the Blair Woman’s Club in the amount of \$300, to be used toward the purchase of new books. Mrs. Petty will send thank-you letters.
2. Approve Workshop & Mileage Reimbursement Requests – To approve the attached list of workshop & mileage reimbursement requests.
3. Approve SEMI Program Waiver Request - To approve the 2015-16 SEMI program waiver request.
4. Approve Speech Therapy Contract – To approve a contract with J&B Therapy for speech therapy services in the amount of \$78/hour for the 2014-15 School Year.

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C. FACILITIES

A motion was made by Mr. Herrmann, seconded by Mrs. Mantegna, and carried unanimously by roll call vote to approve the next two items:

1. Approve Facilities' Use Requests –To approve the list of Facilities' Use Requests.
2. Approve Change Order for Generator Project - To approve Change Order #2 for the generator project, in the amount of \$4,745, as follows:
 - \$2,000 – Installation of remote annunciator panel
 - \$1,450 – Provision of two electrical circuits for the condensate pumps
 - \$1,295 – Provision of one electrical circuit for new fire alarm panel
3. Approve Additional Work for Generator Hook-Up – Mrs. Petty explained that our Maintenance Supervisor and the generator contractor agreed that additional work was needed on the generator project, to hook-up some lighting as well as sump-pumps, etc. Lulo provided a price of \$7,800, and Wires Electric's price was \$8,220. A motion was made by Mrs. McLain, seconded by Mrs. Glory, and carried unanimously by roll call vote to award a contract to Lulo for the work as proposed on January 27th in the amount of \$7,800.
4. Infrared Roof Test Report – Mrs. Petty reviewed the results of the recent infrared roof test, which were better than expected. She will consult with the Board's new engineers regarding cost-effectiveness of installing new roofing versus treating the existing roofing with Tremco's products.

D. EDUCATION

1. Class Trip Destination Change – A motion was made by Mrs. Wood-Rosso, seconded by Mrs. Hadden, and carried unanimously to approve the third grade teachers' request to change their June 5th trip from the Pequest Hatchery to the Merrill Creek Reservoir.

OLD BUSINESS - A list of 2014-15 Board Committees was distributed by Mr. Herrmann, BOE President
- Mr. Saalfield provided the Board with a Five-Year Strategic Plan Update, noting that much has already been accomplished.

POLICY

A motion was made by Mrs. McLain, seconded by Mrs. Hadden, and carried unanimously to approve the following two motions:

1. Abolish Policy 1522 – To abolish Policy #1522, which was repealed from the NJ Administrative Code.
2. Approve First Readings –To approve the first reading of the following policies: 2463, 5305, 5308, 5310, 5530, and 5339.

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3. Discussion of Policy 6163 (Advertising on School Property) – The Board had a short discussion on this subject, and Mr. Saalfield will investigate how much funding other schools are receiving from allowing advertising on school property.

CORRESPONDENCE – None.

PUBLIC HEARING & PETITION – None.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – J. Karolchyk noted that next Wednesday, Feb. 25th, North Warren Regional will be holding a meeting on their search for a new Superintendent.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – A motion was made by Mrs. Wood-Rosso, seconded by Mrs. Hadden, and carried unanimously to convene to Executive Session at 9:55PM to discuss matters of personnel concerning a stipend amount and a 2014-15 teaching assignment.

The meeting reopened to the public at 10:08PM and continued with the following action.

A motion was made by Mrs. Glory, seconded by Mr. Cook, and failed (4-yes; 4-no) to increase the annual stipend for substitute calling to \$3,000.

A motion was made by Mrs. Hadden, seconded by Mrs. McLain, and carried by roll call vote to increase the annual stipend for substitute calling to \$2,200.

A motion was made by Mrs. Wood-Rosso, seconded by Mrs. Mantegna, and carried unanimously to amend the 2014-15 School Calendar for the March PLC day, which will now be March 25th instead of March 10th.

ADJOURNMENT – A motion was made by Mrs. Wood-Rosso, seconded by Mrs. Hadden, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:31PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Molly Petty
School Business Administrator